

**IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

A coupling device (20) for restraining belts, particularly for children safety seats for motor-vehicles, comprises a body (21)-intended to be connected to at least one belt branch and a pair of tongue elements (10) intended to be connected each to a respective belt branch. Each tongue element (10) includes an attachment portion (10b) for connection with the respective belt branch and a stem portion (10a) arranged to be received and locked in the body (21)-and forming a catch tooth (10e) for locking the tongue element (10) in the body (21). Each tongue element (10) further comprises a metal insert (12) wholly covered by a plastic or rubber housing or coating. Thus, the risk of burnings in case of the coupling device being handled after the vehicle has been left in the sun for a long time is prevented.

**REMARKS**

The Abstract has been amended to remove reference numerals. The Claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

**Conclusion**

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James T. Eller, Jr. (Reg. No. 39,538 ) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

James T. Eller, Jr.

Registration No.: 39,538

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant